



OFFICE OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

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Linda McCulloch
Superintendent

May 3, 2004

To: OPI MASS Representatives

From: Madalyn Quinlan, Chief of Staff

Subject: Summary of OPI Activities for May 2004

Here is a summary of the current activities at the Office of Public Instruction for May 2004. This summary can also be found at www.opi.state.mt.us/MASSUpdates/.

Office of the State Superintendent

Highlights of State Superintendent Linda McCulloch's Activities for April 2004:

- Submitted her budget requests the Governor's Office for the 2005 legislative session
- Welcomed delegates to the Montana Indian Education Association's conference in Missoula
- Addressed delegates at the MEA-MFT Representative Assembly in Missoula
- Attended the Hi-Line MASS meeting in Havre
- Held her monthly OPI Cabinet meeting
- Spoke to Helena's Head Start staff
- Visited schools in Kalispell, Libby, Ronan, Bigfork, Somers and Lakeside as part of her week-long Yellow School Bus Tour with OPI staff
- Welcomed the members of the Health Organization Student Association to Helena for their conference
- Attended the meetings of the State Land Board, Education Forum and Montana State Library Commission
- Was interviewed by national and Montana TV, radio, and newspapers concerning education issues
- Held oral arguments regarding jurisdictional issues in the appeal of Ronan School District v. Francine Dupuis
- Participated as a panelist in a public forum in Lewistown regarding current education issues
- Participated in meetings in Missoula with Senator Burns and Deputy Secretary for the U.S. Department of Education Eugene Hickok
- Participated in the Montana Library Association's annual conference
- Delivered the welcome speech to the Mountain Plains Adult Education Association annual conference
- Spoke to student teachers at Montana State University
- Was a "celebrity teacher" to a class of fifth-grade students at Longfellow School in Bozeman about the dangers of under-age drinking
- Attended the career fair at MSU-Bozeman

State Superintendent Submits Budget Request for 2007 Biennium

"It is our mission to advocate, communicate, educate and be accountable to those we serve"

On April 30, the Office of Public Instruction submitted its budget requests to the Governor's office for consideration in the 2005 legislative session. This submission is the first step in a budget negotiation process that will continue with the Governor's office until Governor Martz's budget proposal is finalized in November 2004.

Some of the highlights of the OPI's general fund budget request include:

K-12 BASE Aid Increases	\$21 million
Per-educator Entitlement	\$26 million
Full-Day Kindergarten	\$22 million
Special Education Increases	\$2.5 million
Career and Technical Education Increases	\$1.17 million
Gifted and Talented Education Increases	\$400,000
Accreditation/Technical Assistance Specialists	\$843,000
Indian Education for All	\$500,000

In addition, OPI requested funding increases for Education Licensure, Measurement and Accountability, stipends for teachers who achieve National Board Certification, OPI's Surplus Computers Program for schools, Statewide Student Assessment, Audiology, and a Gifted Education specialist.

OPI's general fund request totals \$85 million for the 2007 biennium. In addition, the office requested \$28 million in spending authority for federal funds, of which \$25 million would be distributed to schools. OPI Contact: Madalyn Quinlan, 444-3168 or mquinlan@state.mt.us.

Want to Subscribe to the *Summary of OPI Activities*?

If you are not receiving the Office of Public Instruction's Official E-mail and would like to subscribe to the monthly *Summary of OPI Activities*, go to <http://www.opi.state.mt.us/regforms/opiActivities/>. Enter your email address and press SUBMIT.

Highly Qualified Teachers: Montana's HOUSSE

In September 2003, the Office of Public Instruction submitted its Consolidated State Application to the US Department of Education on the subject of Highly Qualified Teachers. Subsequent to the September submittal, the US Ed's Teacher Assistance Corps advised the State Superintendent to submit additional information to the US Secretary of Education clarifying Montana's approach to preparing and supporting highly qualified teachers. In mid-April, OPI submitted a document explaining Montana's system for Teacher Preparation, Teacher Licensure and Ongoing Professional Development. The purpose of the document is to demonstrate to the federal education agency that Montana has a "High Objective Uniform State Standard of Evaluation" (HOUSSE) for its teachers. A copy of the OPI submittal is available at <http://www.opi.state.mt.us/pdf/superintendent/MontanaHOUSSE.pdf>. OPI Contact: Linda Peterson, 406-444-5726 or lvpeterson@state.mt.us.

Teacher Appreciation Week

A Message from State Superintendent Linda McCulloch

It is a real pleasure for me to take this opportunity to thank all of you across the state in honor of America's observance of Teachers' Appreciation Week, a time to honor teachers and recognize the lasting contributions you make to our lives.

Your energy, enthusiasm and commitment to public education and Montana's children are unsurpassed. Teachers open children's minds to the magic of ideas, knowledge and dreams.

Teachers keep American democracy alive by laying the foundation for good citizenship. Teachers fill many roles, as listeners, explorers, motivators and mentors. Teachers continue to influence students long after the school days are only memories.

I can't think of any other profession that touches so many people in such a special and lasting way as teaching does. Often I fondly remember my two decades as an elementary school teacher and the rich moments as I watched one of my students learn to read, discover their favorite character in a book or figure out the answer to a tough question. There truly are few professions that touch the human soul and are as rewarding as being a teacher.

Montana educators, you have my deepest thanks and appreciation. I am inspired by the discipline, resourcefulness and goodness you bring every day to your job and the challenge of being a teacher. Montana is so very lucky to have all of you who wake up every morning dedicated to helping bring out the best in our children. Thank you and happy Teacher Appreciation Week!

OPI's Yellow School Bus Tour

On May 18, State Superintendent Linda McCulloch and a dozen members of her staff will visit Anaconda Public Schools as part of OPI's Yellow School Bus Tour. The purpose of the Yellow School Bus Tour is to listen and learn about the challenges and successes in Montana schools. If you would like more information, contact OPI Tour coordinator, Jan Lombardi at jlombardi@state.mt.us or 444-1641.

Public School Enrollment Data available for 2003-2004

The 2003-04 Montana Public School Enrollment Data Booklet is available on-line at <http://www.opi.state.mt.us/PDF/Measurement/EnrollBook2004.pdf>. OPI Contact: Andy Boehm, Research Specialist, (406) 444-0375 or aboehm@state.mt.us.

State Action for Education Leadership Project II

The Wallace Foundation has awarded the Montana Office of Public Instruction a \$600,000 SAELP II grant for a 3-year period to support the development of school leaders in Montana. Montana's SAELP II grant is to create a network across five regions in Montana which will pair high performing schools with low performing schools to measurably improve leadership and subsequently student achievement in these and, ultimately all, Montana schools. SAELP I focused on improving policies and conditions for school leaders to improve student learning. SAELP II's goal is to help school leaders acquire necessary skills and knowledge to improve student learning. The expected result from the SAELP II grant and work is measurable improvements in student achievement in our lowest performing schools the ultimate outcome of improved student achievement.

Montana has a strong SAELP Consortium. This consortium has demonstrated a commitment to working together to improve leadership in Montana schools with the ultimate outcome of improved student achievement. OPI Contact: Madalyn Quinlan, 444-3168 or mquinlan@state.mt.us.

Montana K-12 Public School Renewal Commission

The next meeting of the School Renewal Commission will be May 17, 2004 in Helena at the State Capitol. Information regarding membership, meetings and resources is available on the web: <http://www.discoveringmontana.com/gov2/css/boards/renewal/default.asp>. Contact: Kris Goss, Education Policy Advisor, Office of the Governor, at 406-444-3862 or kgoss@state.mt.us. OPI Contact: Madalyn Quinlan, mquinlan@state.mt.us or 406-444-3168.

Board of Public Education Meeting Topics for May

The Board of Public Education will hold its next regular meeting May 13-14, 2004, at the Montana School for the Deaf and Blind, 3911 Central Avenue, Great Falls, Montana. Agenda items from the Office of Public Instruction include: Assessment, NCLB, Professional Educator Preparation Program committee, Five-Year Comprehensive Education Plan, Recruitment and Retention, Implementation of Teaching Endorsement Internship, and Montana Advisory Council on Indian Education reports. The regular Superintendent's Report will be given along with a request for a potential amendment to Administrative Rule 10.55.909 regarding the transfer of student records. Action items include Alternative Standard Requests and Renewals, 2003-2004 Accreditation Recommendations (Addendum) and the approval of the BASE Aid payment schedule for the 2004-2005 school year. Contacts are Board of Public Education Executive Secretary Steve Meloy (406) 444-0300 or Deputy Superintendent Bud Williams (406) 444-7325.

Updates for the 2004-2005 *Directory of Montana Schools*

Updates for the *2004-2005 Directory of Montana Schools* are due May 21, 2004. Please return any additions or corrections to the Office of Public Instruction, Attn: Gail Hansen. You may fax your corrections to (406) 444-1369 or email ghansen@state.mt.us. If you have questions, please call (406) 444-4424.

OPI has Free Computers Available

The Surplus Computer Program operated by the Office of Public Instruction currently has several hundred Pentium II computers in stock. These computers vary in speed and memory with some network servers available. There are machines running from 233mhz up to 500 MHz with varying memory amounts, some have built in network interface cards. These computers are available free to K-12 public schools in the state; all you need to do is to make an appointment and come to Helena to pick them up. Typically these machines do not have an operating system but are fully functional with all parts intact. Currently OPI has a good supply of monitors, keyboards, mice, speakers and power cords available to make these complete ready to go units. There are also a number of laser printers and a few scanners available for schools.

In addition, free operating systems are available from Microsoft through the "Fresh Start" program to make these units an attractive option for schools that may be limited on technology budgets. If you are interested in any of this equipment, please send e-mail to Scott Buswell at sbuswell@state.mt.us.

Education Licensure

The Education Licensure Web page has been updated and designed to better meet the needs of educators. Beyond the links to the Montana Jobs for Teachers website, online renewal, and the list of educators' credentials, the page now features a link to every class of licensure and a helpful resource box. These new links will be a great convenience for everyone seeking licensure information. Check out the updated webpage at <http://www.opi.state.mt.us/Cert/Index.html>. OPI Contact: Margaret Bowles, 444-2580 or mbowles@state.mt.us.

Assessment

The April 2004 issue of **JUMP, the OPI online assessment newsletter**, is online at <http://www.opi.state.mt.us/PDF/Assessment/NewsLetters/Apr2004AssessNews.pdf>.

Test Results

Thank you to test coordinators for your diligence in returning all Iowa Test answer documents to Riverside Publishing Company by April 15. Riverside will be shipping results to districts within 15 working days after it receives the answer documents in scoreable condition. Districts can expect to begin receiving test results during the second week of May. The Office of Public Instruction is scheduled to receive the statewide results for the Iowa Tests in June.

Schools and districts can expect to receive the results of the Measured Progress tests in September 2004. The CRT results will serve as the basis for OPI's determination of Adequate Yearly Progress. OPI expects to complete its determinations by January 2005.

Tentative Dates for Testing in 2005

The tentative dates for the Statewide Testing Windows for the Spring 2005 are:

Iowa Tests (NRT)	March 7-25, 2005
Measured Progress (CRT)	March 21 – April 15, 2005

To accommodate the variety of school spring breaks, the testing window for the CRT is four weeks and overlaps with the testing window for the Iowa Tests.

OPI Contact: Judy Snow, 406-444-3656 or jsnow@state.mt.us.

School Budgeting and Accounting

School Budgeting and Accounting Workshops

The 2004 School Budgeting & Accounting Workshops have been scheduled as follows:

Wednesday, July 7	Kalispell
Thursday, July 8	Missoula
Friday, July 9	Butte
Tuesday, July 13	Sidney
Wednesday, July 14	Miles City
Thursday, July 15	Billings
Wednesday, July 21	Havre
Thursday, July 22	Great Falls

Workshops are general updates presented by staff of the School Finance Division, are free of charge, and are open to anyone interested in school budgeting and accounting. Register on-line at: <http://www.opi.state.mt.us/regforms/sbaw/>. OPI Contact: Nica Carte at (406) 444-4401 or ncarte@state.mt.us.

MAEFAIRS Training

The Division of School Finance will offer MAEFAIRS training on Thursday, July 29, in Helena. This training is designed for school district personnel responsible for completing the TFS/Budget reports. OPI Contact: Nica Carte at (406) 444-4401 or ncarte@state.mt.us.

Have you requested grant cash?

Please check to make sure you submitted a cash request for each OPI grant and have been receiving the money you expected. OPI makes a payment on the 10th of each month. Under OPI policy, any cash not requested by the fiscal closeout will not be paid. If you have questions about a particular grant, contact an OPI accountant for the grant. See the Directory of Montana Schools (pages 2-8).

2nd Semester Transportation Claims Due

TR-5 (Individual Transportation Claim) and TR-6 (Bus Route Transportation Claim) forms for second semester reimbursement were sent to school district clerks during April. Completed claim forms are due to the county superintendent by May 10. The County Superintendent will send the completed forms to OPI by May 24. Late claims will delay your district's 2nd semester transportation payments until September. OPI Contact: Maxine Mougeot, (406) 444-3096, or mmougeot@state.mt.us.

(Inexpensive!) Bus Driver and Pupil Transportation Training

The Montana Association for Pupil Transportation (MAPT) Summer Workshop will be held June 23-25, 2004 at Lewistown High School. OPI recommends districts send bus drivers, mechanics, and transportation directors to attend these extremely valuable sessions. Attendance at the conference may be counted toward the 10-hour minimum annual bus driver-training requirement. Go to <http://www.opi.state.mt.us/pdf/pupiltransport/MAPTCONFERENCE.pdf> for more info. OPI Contact: Maxine Mougeot, (406) 444-3096, or mmougeot@state.mt.us.

New GASB 34 Required for Audits of FY04

The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) adopted GASB Statement No. 34, a national accounting and reporting standard that will significantly change the format of a school district's audited financial statements. All districts must implement the new format for audits of FY 2003-04. Districts have already taken steps to create depreciation schedules and update fixed asset records. Clerks who have not done so should immediately contact their auditors to discuss implementation. See more information on the OPI website at <http://www.opi.state.mt.us/schoolfinance/gasb34.html>. OPI Contacts: Jim Oberembt, (406) 444-1257 or joberembt@state.mt.us or Denise Ulberg, (406) 444-0783, dulberg@state.mt.us.

OPI Distributes Indirect Cost Rate Applications for FY05 Grant Projects

Applications for indirect cost rates for FY 2004-05 are now posted on the OPI website at <http://www.opi.state.mt.us/schoolfinance/acct.html>. Indirect cost recoveries are OPTIONAL; but you must have a rate approved by OPI if you intend to claim indirect cost recoveries from grants in FY 05. The OPI-approved rate can be used on state and federal grants, including grants administered by OPI or received directly from a federal agency or another state agency. Application forms are due back to OPI by May 31, 2004. OPI Contact: Jim Oberembt, (406) 444-1257 or joberembt@state.mt.us.

Department of Education Services

Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship Winners for 2004-05

The Office of Public Instruction is pleased to announce that 23 exemplary winners have been selected from a field of over 200 Montana high school applicants as Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship winners for the school year 2004-05. Based upon the availability of federal funds Montana receives from the U.S. Department of Education, the individual award for 2004-05 is \$1,500.

When each scholarship winner has completed their freshman year of college and has met the college's eligibility requirements, the Byrd Scholar may renew the scholarship for up to three more years for undergraduate study only.

The 2004-05 winners are: Grace Ausick, Ausick Family Homeschool; Heidi Brandt, Fort Benton High School; Cassie Brownell, Conrad High School; Ruth Bumgarner, Polson High School; Christopher Chandler, Absarokee High School; Anna Doyle, Loyola Sacred Heart High School; Larissa Harwood, Flathead High School; Aaron Hedegaard, Sidney High School; Brock

Hedegaard, Sidney High School; Jared Hedegaard, Sidney High School; Joshua Hurd, Hellgate High School; Jason Kephart, Billings Skyview High School; Kariann Larson, Troy High School; Chad Lukkason, Great Falls High School; William Miller, Florence-Carlton High School; Mary Milodragovich, Butte High School; Melanie Overcast, Chinook High School; Brianna Patacini, Whitehall High School; Bryan Simons, Sunburst High School; Lauren Smith, Red Lodge High School; Emily Tew, Augusta High School; James Verlanic, Anaconda High School; and Gage Zobell, Beaverhead County High School.

We join their families, friends and teachers in congratulating all 23 of these outstanding high school students on this achievement! OPI Contact: Carol Gneckow, Program Specialist, (406) 444-2417 or cgneckow@state.mt.us.

Accreditation Division

The Board of Public Education has amended its administrative rules regarding Distance Learning (ARM 10.55.907). The new language can be found at www.opi.state.mt.us/ARM/index.html. Look under Title 10, Chapter 55. The effective date of the rule is April 9th. OPI Contact: Michael Hall, 406-444-4422 or mhall@state.mt.us.

Special Education Division

Special Education Exiting Data Reporting

Special education exiting data reporting is now in progress. The due date for submittal of the data is June 30, 2004. A completed report must be submitted for each school in each school district in the state. (If there are no students to report, the data entry screen has a box to check indicating no students.) Authorized representatives of IDEA, Part B Projects were notified of the reporting process by memo both through paper mailing and by e-mail. All pertinent documents must be accessed through the Internet. The instruction manual can be found at <http://www.opi.state.mt.us/PDF/ChildCount/ManualElectronic.pdf>. School districts and special education cooperatives are encouraged to report exiting data electronically. User names and passwords are required to access the Special Education Data Collection application. If you do not have access to the Internet, have questions about the exiting reporting process, or need help with the electronic application, please call Pat Reichert at 406-444-4430, or e-mail to preichert@state.mt.us.

The **Montana Administrative Claiming (MAC)** Medicaid program allows school districts and cooperatives to be reimbursed for some of the costs associated with administration of school-based health services as well as outreach activities, which are not claimable under the Medicaid Direct Services Program. The MAC program started with 12 schools and cooperatives in the last calendar (Oct-Dec) quarter of 2003. In the first quarter (Jan-Mar) of 2004, 43 schools participated and there will be 54 participating schools in second quarter (Apr-Jun) of 2004.

Prior to the beginning of each quarter, each participating school district and cooperative sends a list to the Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) of personnel (who are not 100% federally funded) that provide administrative functions related to health-related services and outreach. Participants are then selected at random from the statewide personnel pool to complete time studies for the quarter. At the end of a quarter, the school districts and cooperatives send the time studies and financial data to Maximus, a private company that is currently contracted by DPHHS to implement and administer the program. This data is used to determine the amount to be reimbursed to each participating school or cooperative. DPHHS

recently hired a new staff member to assume the duties performed by Maximus. The temporary contact at DPHHS is Michelle Gillespie. She may be reached at 444-4066. The contact at Maximus is Nora Paape, her number is [\(847\) 989-7562](tel:8479897562). Officials predict Montana school districts and cooperatives may receive as much as \$1 million in reimbursement for the first year.

Educational Opportunity and Equity Division

Title I Allocation Information

Changes in the poverty data used for Title I allocations affect several other federal funding allocations as well. Most of the effects will not be felt until school year 2005-06, but some funding allocations are affected for the upcoming school year (e.g. Ed Tech and funds under REAP). In the 2000 Census, Montana lost over 9,000 children from the total population of ages 5-17 and over 5,000 "poverty children".

Prior to the passage of the No Child Left Behind Act, Census updates were required every two years. No Child Left Behind Act now requires YEARLY updates to the U.S. Census Bureau's poverty figures. These statistical updates are tied to various indicators at the national, state, and county levels. If you want more information on how the US Census conducts its statistical updates, go to <http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/saipe.html>. Please note that although the updates are required yearly, the data lags four years behind the current year.

In terms of funding allocations, every single district is now in competition with every other district in the nation. Your district's poverty count might be growing, but its growth might not be as great in relative terms or sheer numbers as poverty counts in Los Angeles or New York City, etc.

The federal poverty threshold used by the Census Bureau is lower than that for Free Lunch Participation and much lower than that for Reduced Lunch. You can get the poverty levels used on the website shown above.

We are concerned, as many of you are, about the overall decrease in federal funding that results from these revised federal poverty figures. Montana was not one of the 11 states with an actual loss in Title I funding, but we were barely above last year's level. We will continue to look for every available means to address this concern. OPI Contact: B J Granbery, 406-444-4420 or bgranbery@state.mt.us.

Health Enhancement and Safety Division

Coordinated School Health Unit

Safer Schools: Removing Excess Chemicals from Secondary Schools

The Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has asked OPI to let schools know that DEQ will be receiving limited funds -- \$25,000 to \$50,000 per year for several years -- to conduct in-school visits to help schools identify hazardous chemicals at the school. The visits will also help schools identify disposal options and will provide educational information on safe chemical management. As this program becomes operational during the 2004-2005 school year, the DEQ will provide more information on how schools can get an on-site visit and utilize the expertise of DEQ staff. Contact: Dept of Environmental Quality, Patrick Crowley, 444-2544 or pcrowley@state.mt.us.

FEMA's On-Line Course Helps Schools Develop Effective Emergency Operations Plans

The Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has an on-line, independent study course that will help educators and first responders develop effective emergency operations plans for the wide array of potential emergencies that schools face. The online course describes emergency management operations, roles and responsibilities, explains how to assess potential hazards schools face, and explains how to develop and test an emergency operations plan. While the course takes an all-hazards approach to emergency planning, it does include a lesson on planning for terrorism. The course takes between six to eight hours to complete and is located on-line at <http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/is362.asp>. Those who successfully finish the course receive a certification of completion. For additional information contact Dawn.Warehime@dhs.gov or 301-447-1309.

HIV/AIDS/STD Program

Summer Training for Teachers Announced

The OPI's annual three-day HIV/AIDS/STD workshop designed to provide effective programs for the reduction of unintended pregnancy, and infection with STDs, including HIV, will be June 16, 17, and 18 in Helena at the Wingate Inn. The training focuses on skills development and teaching strategies that will help teachers (K-12, health enhancement, family and consumer science, etc.) provide students with age-appropriate material for an HIV/STD unit. OPI Contact for registrations is Susan Court, 406-444-3178 or scourt@state.mt.us.

PIR Day Training at Your School Available

An HIV/AIDS Training can come to your school – FREE – to help meet professional development requirements. The trainings offer staff development on current HIV information and skills to teach HIV prevention strategies, skills to prevent, or stop, biased comments and other forms of harassment that may exist in the school, and universal precaution procedures for infection control and work site safety. The lively and interactive 5-6 hour trainings are appropriate for K-12 teachers, custodians, bus drivers, school nutrition staff, and other support staff and paraprofessionals. To schedule training, contact Susan Court, 406-444-3178 or scourt@state.mt.us.

School Nutrition Unit

Child Nutrition Employee Appreciation Week May 3-7

You know how much you appreciate your school nutrition employees, but do they? Let them know just how much you appreciate their hard work during this special week. Visit www.asfsa.org for ideas to help your school recognize the efforts of school foodservice professionals. OPI Contact: School Nutrition Programs, (406) 444-2501.

Recognizing Foodservice Professionals Deadline May 7

School Nutrition Programs would like to recognize all school food service staff with 20, 25 or 30 years of uninterrupted service to the profession. We will also recognize retiring staff that has 20 or more years of service in your school food service program. Please submit the names of food service staff meeting the above criteria so they may be recognized for their dedication to the school nutrition programs. OPI Contact: School Nutrition Programs, (406) 444-2501.

Summer Food Service Program Application Deadline May 7

Application packets will be sent out April 23. Previous year sponsor applications are due May 7, 2004. New sponsor applications are due May 28, 2003. For more information: OPI Contact: Sofia Janik, School Nutrition Programs, (406) 444- 2521 or sjanik@state.mt.us

5-A-Day Mini Grants Available! Deadline May 20

\$300 or \$500 mini grants are being offered through a competitive mini grant process to fund projects that promote a 5 A Day or increased fruit and vegetable intake to a specific target audience. The project's main focus should be on improving access to and/or consumption of, fruits and vegetables through implementation of policies or environmental changes. Collaboration is encouraged between institutions, programs or agencies and community members. The Eat Right Montana Coalition and the Montana Cardiovascular Health Program, Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services sponsor this grant program. The deadline is May 20, 2004. Contact: Crystelle Fogle, (406) 947-2344 or cfogle@state.mt.us.

Mini-Grants to Support Parent Groups Taking Action for Healthy Kids Deadline May 24

The Montana Action for Healthy Kids Team from the Eat Right Montana Coalition is offering a competitive mini-grant program to school parent organizations to support them in taking action to improve access to healthful foods, physical activity or health education for their students. Mini-grants up to \$1,000 each will be funded to at least 10 organizations in Montana. The grant application is posted at www.opi.state.mt.us/schoolfood/index.html. OPI Contact: Katie Bark, (406) 994-5641 or kbark@state.mt.us or Lisa Bornhoft at (406) 228-3626 or fborli@fmdh.org.

\$5000 Grants Available Deadline May 31

The Western Dairy Council will award a \$5,000 grant to an organization or individual proposing innovative, community-based nutrition education programs aimed at empowering kids to become advocates for healthy eating and an active lifestyle to achieve healthy weight. To access submission guidelines and to download a sample application, please visit www.wdairycouncil.com. If you don't have Internet access, please contact Western Dairy Council at (800) 274-6455.

Western Dairy Council	School Nutrition Programs
Judy Barbe	(406) 444-2501
(307) 472-1830	

American Academy of Pediatrics Health/Art Competition for Children Deadline June 1

To celebrate its coming 75th anniversary, the AAP is inviting children in grades 1-5 to submit original art that shows health subjects. There will be money prizes for the winners and their schools. Entries must be postmarked by June 1, 2004. For details of the competition, go to www.aap.org/new/artcontest/75artcontest.htm. OPI Contact: School Nutrition Programs, (406) 444-2501.

Montana School Food Service/Office of Public Instruction Conference June 28-30

The 2004 MSFSA/OPI Conference will take place at the Holiday Inn Grand in Billings. The theme for this year is *S.M.A.R.T. – School Meals Achieving Results Together...Do We Measure Up?* Look for more information and registration information coming soon.

MSFSA	School Nutrition Programs
Attn: Becky Green	Diane Dolan
(406) 654-1034	(406) 444-4416
www.mtsfsa.org	didolan@state.mt.us

2004 MSU School Food Service Cooking Institute

Ask your new food service manager or cook to attend this weeklong, fully sponsored training at MSU-Bozeman during the week of August 2-6, 2004. Only one food service employee per school district may apply. The application is posted at the following website

www.opi.state.mt.us/schoolfood.index.html. Contact: Anne Schumacher with the Montana Team Nutrition Program at (406) 994-5397.

Driver Education/Advanced Driver Education Unit

Annual Year-End Report (TE06)—Deadline July 10

This report is due July 10, and is necessary to compute the traffic education reimbursement for the program year 2003-2004. You may complete and send in a hard-copy report, or complete the report online. For directions on how to complete this report online, go to www.opi.state.mt.us/drivered. To obtain a hard-copy report, go to the same website and download the report form. Return hard copy with signatures to David Huff at OPI by July 10. Contact: David Huff (444-4396 or dhuff@state.mt.us) or Fran Penner-Ray (444-4432 or fpenner-ray@state.mt.us).

Annual Traffic Education Reimbursement—Estimated \$72 per student

Reimbursement to schools for traffic education will be made in August. All student lists (TE03 & TE04) and the Annual Year-End Report (TE06) must be completed and submitted by July 10 in order for the reimbursement to be made. Contact: David Huff (444-4396 or dhuff@state.mt.us) or Fran Penner-Ray (444-4432 or fpenner-ray@state.mt.us). (Actual reimbursement amount is based on number of students completing traffic education and the actual funds available from driver license fees and can vary several dollars from estimated amount.)

Annual Program Application—Deadline August 1.

Applications to run a traffic education program for program year 2004-2005 and summer 2005 will be mailed to schools in May. These applications are due before on or before August 1, 2004, and must be processed before a district can provide an approved traffic education program. Contact: David Huff (444-4396 or dhuff@state.mt.us) or Fran Penner-Ray (444-4432 or fpenner-ray@state.mt.us).

2004 Summer Institute

Beyond Compliance: Balancing Learning and Accountability

Helena Great Northern Hotel/GNTC, Helena, Montana, June 16-18, 2004

The Summer Institute 2004 is sponsored by the Montana Association of Supervision and Curriculum Development, the Helena Public Schools, Bozeman Public Schools, Montana Reading Council, Golden Triangle Curriculum Cooperative, and the Office of Public Instruction.

The Summer Institute 2004 offers Montana educators an exceptional professional learning opportunity that mixes theory and classroom experience with scientifically-based research strategies and hands-on activities. This blend of thinking and doing is further enhanced because the nationally recognized presenters are also practicing teachers. School teams of K-12 educators are invited to attend this professional learning opportunity. To register, go to <http://www.opi.state.mt.us/RegForms/MASCD/Index.html>.

OPI Contact: Linda Vrooman Peterson, (406) 444-5726 or e-mail, lvpeterson@state.mt.us.

THE PROGRAM – TEACHERS TEACHING TEACHERS

Wednesday, June 16, Day One 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Presenter - Lawrence Peterson Larry is a teacher at North Ridge High School in Layton, Utah.

Measuring Up – It's geometry! It's statistics! It's research based! It's fun! Lessons taught in ways that help teachers and students alike improve their mathematical thinking abilities. Mathematics integrated with Science and Social Studies concepts. So what does a banana have to do with ratios, with volume? You'll explore earthquakes and epicenters, maps and

ratios, linear and area relationships, rates of change, the normal distribution (Is it really random?) plus estimating intervals with confidence in hands-on activities and technology demonstrations. Larry is an experienced teacher who presents learning through an exciting yet practical approach. These well-developed strategies come from real classroom experiences. Increase your mathematical knowledge base by participating in this daylong session. The target audience is 4th grade through high school teachers and administrators.

- Target Audience – Grades 4-12

Concurrent Primary Grades Strand

Presenters - Angel Greenley-Elementary Math Coach, Billings Public Schools and **Nina Miller**-Elementary Math Coach, Billings Public Schools

Beyond the Basics of Counting and Shapes

Still stumbling over concepts you think your students should have grasped by now? This daylong session will investigate different strategies and reinforcing activities in the areas of number sense, computation, and geometry. You will receive many fun ideas and tools to add to your bag of teaching strategies that you can use in your classroom in September.

- Target Audience – Grades K - 3

Thursday, June 17, Day Two 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Presenter - Rick Wormeli Rick is a teacher at Rachel Carson Middle School in Fairfax County Public Schools, Herndon, Virginia.

Differentiating Instruction: Principles and Perspectives You know who he is. He knows Montana educators. Now is your opportunity to refine your knowledge, skills, and strategies to better implement differentiated instruction: Principles and Perspectives. Rick's presentation offers perspective, practicality and unconventional approaches on dealing with diverse learners in heterogeneous and homogeneous classrooms. Specific examples, principles, lesson formats, and activities are presented. Session attendees get cut-to-the-chase principles of differentiated instruction for any subject, find out what the latest research suggests. For value added, learn how to employ highly effective differentiation practices and still have a life.

- Target Audience – K-12

Friday, June 18, Day Three 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Presenter - Carol Jago Carol is a teacher at Santa Monica High School in Santa Monica, California.

Beyond Standards: Literacy Instruction that Transforms Learners

The standards movement has helped us reach consensus on what students should know and be able to do. The next step for educators is to design curriculum that both prepares students to meet these standards and invites them to go beyond. Carol Jago will offer ways that strategic instruction in reading and writing can empower students for life. Participants will come away with practical ideas for helping struggling readers and writers achieve.

Districts may use Title II Part A funding to cover the costs for a team of educators to attend this exceptional professional learning activity.

- Target Audience – K-12

Other Education News

Staples Teacher Appreciation Week is May 2-9. To thank teachers and paraprofessionals for their hard work, every qualifying purchase they make counts twice toward rewards. Not a Staples Teacher Rewards member? Sign up in a Staples store, at www.staples.com/teacherrewards, or call 1-800-636-9555.

Recycle for Education has been such a success that Staples is continuing it through 2004! Take your used computer printer and toner cartridges to Staples, and they will donate \$1 for every eligible cartridge to the Montana Professional Teaching Foundation. (Don't worry about which cartridges are eligible; Staples will sort them out.) The recycling program has already earned thousands of dollars for the foundation and its programs: Montana Teacher of the Year, Montana Educator Forum, National Board Certification Scholarships, and the Karen Cox Memorial Grant Program.

ArtAnswer

Grades 1-4

www.artanswer.com

P.O. Box 59387, Billings, Montana 59105

(406) 672-8482

ArtAnswer is an interactive art program written for classroom teachers Grades 1-4. The program, created by five classroom and art teachers in Billings, Montana, combines more than 100 years of education experience. The art elements Line, Shape, and Color are introduced in Set 1. Each element includes a video and teacher's guide. The video introduces the element and goes through the activities step-by-step. The teacher's guide contains integrations into other academic areas so students express and learn through continued art experiences.